

Clinton, Iowa, to use \$1.1 million in stimulus money for road work

By **Steven Martens** | Wednesday, February 18, 2009

CLINTON, Iowa — With U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley in town to discuss the local impact of the \$787 billion federal economic stimulus plan, Clinton leaders said Wednesday they plan to use \$1.1 million the city will receive from the plan to help fund the extension of 19th Avenue North.

Braley, D-Iowa, said the stimulus package makes federal funding available for projects that are shovel-ready, or ready for construction to begin within 120 days.

Work on the \$7 million extension of 19th Avenue North from 2nd Avenue to Mill Creek Parkway in Clinton is expected to begin this spring and could help create up to 10,000 jobs in the Clinton area by opening the northern and western parts of the city for expansion, Mayor Rodger Holm said.

City Administrator Gary Boden said the project is expected to be completed in 2010 or 2011.

Braley said Iowa will receive \$358.2 million for road and highway construction projects, with about \$120 million of that amount going to local governments and planning organizations for local projects. Clinton's \$1.1 million will come from that pool of money.

Braley said the economic stimulus package is expected to have a \$4.87 billion impact on the [state of Iowa](#) and help create or save 37,000 jobs statewide, including 7,300 in his 1st Congressional District.

"This is our challenge, to turn this economy around, and it starts here at the local level," Braley said.

Braley said other Clinton project could be eligible for funding from the state. Edith Pfeffer of Clinton, president of the U.S. 30 Coalition of Iowa, said she hoped projects to expand U.S. 30 to four lanes could receive stimulus funding.

Steve Ames, president and CEO of the Clinton Regional Development Corp., said construction of a rail port and industrial park west of Clinton could be ready to begin within the 120-day limit, as well.

Holm also asked Braley about the possibility of getting federal funding to help offset the costs of a new \$30 million wastewater treatment facility and a \$100 million project to separate the city's storm and sanitary sewers.

Clinton City Council member Mike Kearney, 2nd Ward, said the projects were forced on the city by state and federal government and are considered by some in the community as "a classic example of an unfunded

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mandate.”

Kearney also expressed concern that the outcome an upcoming bond issue referendum to fund the construction of a new fire station, the renovation of a second fire station and the purchase of a new fire truck could be impacted by the city’s recently approved sewer rate increases, which were made necessary by the wastewater treatment plant project.

Braley said his office would continue to work with the City of Clinton and federal agencies on the issue.

Braley to visit Q-C Friday

U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, will be in the Quad-Cities on Friday to discuss the local impact of the federal economic stimulus package.

At 11 a.m., he will be at Leach Park near the Interstate 74 bridge in Bettendorf to discuss the impact the stimulus package will have on the resurfacing of the bridge. At 11:30 a.m., he will meet with Quad-City area leaders at Bettendorf City Hall, 1609 State St., to discuss shovel-ready projects that could be affected by the stimulus package.